

## **MAYOR'S COMMITTEE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES MINUTES**

May 10, 2010 City Hall, Rm 209, 6:30 p.m.

1000 Commonwealth Avenue, Newton, Massachusetts 02459

### **Members Present:**

Jane Brown  
Rob Caruso  
Lucie Chansky  
Jini Fairley  
Rosemary Larking  
Barbara Lischinsky  
Girard Plante  
Heather Platt

### **Staff Present:**

Kathleen Cahill, Community Development Senior Planner  
Linda Walsh, Interim Commissioner of Health and Human Services

### **Public Present:**

Sandra Fairbank  
Michael Leviton

R. Caruso, Co-chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

### **1. Discussion: Presentation of a request for variance from the Architectural Access Board (AAB) for Lumiere Restaurant, 1297 Washington Street West Newton, MA.**

Sandra Fairbanks and Michael Leviton attended the meeting to speak on behalf of Lumiere's request to the Architectural Access Board (AAB) for a variance. Each member received a copy of the variance application (an electronic copy of this application was also sent via email prior to the meeting).

Lumiere is expanding its seating capacity and, in so doing, has triggered a plumbing code requirement for an additional women's toilet room. The restaurant currently has an accessible single-user women's room and an accessible single-user men's room. The existing single-user women's room is located about 10 feet away from the new seating. 521 CMR 30.1.1 allows a toilet room that is not accessible if a separate accessible unisex toilet room is provided at each location. 521 CMR 30.2 states that 'where unisex toilet room(s) are provided they shall be located in the same areas as the other toilet room.' In this particular case Lumiere provides no unisex toilet room, but there are two accessible toilet rooms – one Men's and one Women's. The proposed change would comply with 521 CMR if there were one unisex toilet room, but requires a variance because it provides two accessible, single-user toilet rooms.

The Mayor's Committee members felt that the request for a variance was valid and the accessibility needs of restaurant clients were met through the provision of one single-user women's room and one single-user men's room in close proximity to the new seating area.

L. Chansky moved to recommend Lumiere's request for a variance to the Architectural Access Board. J. Brown seconded the motion and the Committee voted 8-0-0 to recommend the variance.

K.Cahill will email the AAB regarding the Mayor's Committee recommendation.

## **2. Discussion: The Mayor's Committee 'going forward' (ADA Coordinator and cultivation of ongoing contact with various City departments).**

The Mayor's Committee was informed by both L.Walsh and K. Cahill's that K.Cahill will take over from Beverly Droz as staff person to the Mayor's Committee and ADA Coordinator.

## **3. Discussion: Report on projects funded with CDBG Access funds.**

K. Cahill distributed a report on the status of CDBG projects in progress (an electronic copy of this application was also sent via email prior to the meeting). These projects include: Accessible Pedestrian Signals, Charlesbank Playground, Curb Cuts, Retrofitting Curb Cuts, Cold Spring Accessible Route, Nahanton Accessible Pathway and Handicap Parking Space, and Newton Centre Accessible Pathway and Handicap Parking Spaces.

## **4. Discussion: Mayor's Committee May 8, 2010 site visit to Angino Farm to see accessible cedar planting beds and accessible route funded with CDBG funds and review the Farm's proposed barn project.**

The Angino Farm site visit was postponed to June due to inclement weather!

## **5. Other Business: Resident access issues at Warren House, snow removal, and summer meeting schedule (current schedule June 14, July 10, August 9).**

A letter will be sent on behalf of the Mayor's Committee to the staff at Warren House regarding outstanding accessibility repairs in the exterior portion of a resident's unit. Next meeting is scheduled for June 14, 2010.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

